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Your Reference: 800213/DJW/ac
Application No: GB 0219044.5

18 December 2003

Dear Sirs

Patents Act 1977: Search Report under Section 17(5)

I enclose two copies of my search report and two copies of the citations.

Publication

I estimate that, provided you have met all the formal requirements, preparations for publication of your application will be completed soon after **20 January 2004**. At this time you will receive a letter confirming the exact date when the preparations for publication will be completed. This letter will also tell you the publication number and date of publication of your application.

Withdrawal/amendment

If you wish to withdraw your application before it is published you must do so before the preparations for publication are complete. **WARNING** - after preparations for publication are complete it will NOT be possible to withdraw your application from publication.

If you wish to file amended claims for inclusion with the published application you must do so before the preparations for publication are completed. If you write to the Office less than 3 weeks before 20 January 2004 please mark your letter prominently:

"URGENT - PUBLICATION IMMINENT".

[†]Use of E-mail: Please note that e-mail should be used for correspondence only.



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Application No: GB 0219044.5

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Yours faithfully

Robert Price
Examiner



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Application No: GB 0219044.5
Claims searched: 1- 47

Examiner: Robert Price
Date of search: 17 December 2003

Patents Act 1977 : Search Report under Section 17

Documents considered to be relevant:

Category	Relevant to claims	Identity of document and passage or figure of particular relevance	
X,Y	X: 39 Y:1,16,22 46 & 47 at least	EP 1045450 A2	(AGILENT) See col 3 lines 52-55 and col 6 lines 51-54
X,Y	X: 39 Y:1,16,22 46 & 47 at least	EP 0446861 A1	(NIPPON) See col 4 lines 42-58
X,Y	X: 39 Y:1,16,22 46 & 47 at least	US 4826777 A	(STANDARD) See col 4 lines 29-32
X,Y	X: 39 Y:1,16,22 46 & 47 at least	EP 0287228 A2	(STEMCOR) See col 6 lines 50-54
Y	1,16,22 46 & 47 at least	US 5635718 A	(MINNESOTA MINING & MFG) See col 3 lines 7-27

Categories:

X	Document indicating lack of novelty or inventive step	A	Document indicating technological background and/or state of the art.
Y	Document indicating lack of inventive step if combined with one or more other documents of same category.	P	Document published on or after the declared priority date but before the filing date of this invention.
&	Member of the same patent family	E	Patent document published on or after, but with priority date earlier than, the filing date of this application.

Field of Search:

Search of GB, EP, WO & US patent documents classified in the following areas of the UKC^V:

H1K

Worldwide search of patent documents classified in the following areas of the IPC⁷:

H01L, G01T

The following online and other databases have been used in the preparation of this search report:

ONLINE, JAPIO, WPI